



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

LIFE AND JOURNAL OF JOHN SUTHERLAND

John Sutherland, the writer of the journal from which the subjoined pages are extracted, was born August 17, 1819, in Wayne county near Richmond, Indiana. When he was fifteen years of age his family moved to the northern part of the state, settling on land near Rolling Prairie, La Porte county, Indiana. That he could take advantage of such education as was afforded him is shown by his diary, for the entries through the final months of 1840 betray, as well in the improved spelling and grammar and the broadening vocabulary as in the recorded impressions, the influence which his attendance at the Michigan City institute was exercising upon him. He married Eliza Piper, a friend of his boyhood, to whom many allusions are made in the journal. He became one of the well-known men of the county, especially in agricultural circles. For many years he was prominently connected with the state board of agriculture, serving for a period as president; he acted for several years as one of the trustees of Purdue university and promoted actively nearly all local affairs of public interest. His death occurred on June 15, 1886, at La Porte, Indiana, where he had resided for a number of years.

His journal, after having been preserved for seventy-five years in the family of the writer, was rescued from the flames of the rubbish-heap by Miss Jennie Jessup, librarian of the La Porte library. The first third of the copy book in which the journal is entered served young Sutherland as an exercise book for arithmetic. His struggles with the rule of extraction of roots, the single and double rule of three, and vulgar fractions, together with the miseries of composition day, afford an interesting insight into the type of instruction furnished by the rural schools of his day. On New Year's day of 1840, with a grand flourish of capital letters, he began his journal. The allusions to his daily pursuits present a vivid picture of rural life in the

central Mississippi valley during the middle of the last century: attendance at a quilting-bee; the closing exercises of school on March 6; the protracted meetings of Newlites, where about "forty went on the anxious seats;" getting out "floorens"¹ of wheat and oats, for sale at fifty and eighteen cents a bushel respectively, "dull at that;" the constant neighborhood borrowing of all sorts of articles, from ink and wheat bags to windmills; the writer's exchange of a deerskin and fifty cents for a handkerchief; the mother's midwinter horseback and stagecoach trip to Cincinnati; and the daily procession of "moovers," who lodged with his parents over night. A system of shorthand seems to have gained the young man's interest, for whenever he ventured to confide to his journal allusions to his ladylove or other secret matters, such as the determination of the young men of his locality to raid the office of a locofoco paper in La Porte for the "Baudest filthiest scandloust pieces" he ever "red," he had recourse to phonography. But by 1841, evidently, he had lost his interest in recording the events of each day and seems to have made his diary merely an excuse for practice in the hieroglyphics, for the entire remainder of the journal, extending only to August of that year, is in shorthand and covers only two pages. Strangely enough a key, tucked between the leaves of the journal, has come down so that with considerable difficulty it is possible to decipher the entries. The pages which record the impression made upon this young farmer when he attended the great whig gathering at the battlefield of Tippecanoe in late May, 1840, may justly claim more than local interest.

ELLA LONN

JOURNAL OF JOHN SUTHERLAND

(First mention). May 19. James Andrews was here to day to see about going to Tipacanoë but no positive arraignements wer maid as yet.

May 20 I made the arraignements to day about going to Tipacanoë Frederick Ives is to find a horse and me the other Mr. James Andrews the wagon

¹ Numerous allusions throughout the journal make it clear that grain was spread out thinly over the barn floor and threshed out with a flail by hand or trampled out by horses.

21 I went up to Mr Kellogs and got a silk velvet Vest cutt out he charged 37 cts Mrs. Andrews and Mrs Piper was here and made the tent to, go to Tipacanoë the cloth is Mr Blackburn

22 I went out to Porters and got me a palmleaf hat I went from there to Mr Ivess to see Frederick abot going to Tipacanoë he is not very well to day Mr Ives is going to Tipacanoë . . . frederick came over to Mr Andrews and we fixed it all out how we should go and fixed the wagon some Mother made my silk vest to day and lined my palmleaf hat with black silk so it looks quite sumptous I went up to Mr Drummonds to see his wagon over but it is no account

23 I went over to Mr Belshaws to get some oats but he had none out so I went to Gallions but he had none so I came home and went down to Mr Reynolds and got $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of corn to take to Tipacanoë I made a feed trough to take along to feed our horses out of Mother and the girles have doneall of the dump-ling² cooking to day Nothin is wanting

24 F Ives spoke to me about starting in the morning we ar-ranged it

25 warm but rained considerable we are to start this morning after Breakfast it slacked some so I took Bay and went down to Mr Andrews to bring the wagon up Mr Ives came over with the beast shortly after I got their we harnessed up and I took the team up to our house to get our Dumplings and clothes which I did as quick as convenient and we started in the rane Father is not in much of a notion to going we stoped at Mr Blackburnes³ they put in there clothes in our trunk then we went down to Mr Andrews to get thers we had considerable laugh there we loaded up and started in the rane for Mr Ives Mr Blackburn caught up with us by Mr Browns we went up to Mr Ives put in his dump-lings and started Mr Ives took his wagon and went as far as Mr Mulkes there they turned back on the account of the city folks and laporte folk⁴ was gon we turned of at Mulkes lane we got to the Bridge of Lemons 12 Oclock here we took our dinners fed the horses but they would not eat soon as we eat our dinner

² A very old settler has told me that this was a general term for victuals.

³ The context of the entire journal shows Mr. Blackburn to have been the farmer-preacher of the neighborhood.

⁴ This refers to Michigan City, Laporte, and South Bend, places near Rolling Prairie, in the immediate vicinity of which village the writer lived.

we Buckled up payed our toll and started on we caught up with the City and Laporte folks 6 miles on the other side of the Bridge we went in company with them to yellow river here we camped on the other side of the river about 15 minutes after we got ther the south bend folks came up 12 wagons they camped wher we have they had some bad luck about 4 miles from camp a tree fell on one of the wagons and come very near killing one of the men they think he will die yet his skull is considerable injured we all fixed our tents fed our horses and went t bed (one the musitioner got on the brig⁵ and played everal tunes it sounded very hansom about 12 Oclock some of youngster crowed others barked I did not sleep one bit all night

26 we arose at 4 they beat they drum to order all to rise 17 Lodged with us to night or last night we got our Breakfast at 5 Oclock started 6 we left the other company and went as far as Judge polks we got ther at 11 Oclock we wated until the Judge fixed he is a going a long while we wer her the other came up they gave the Judge 3 cheers then went on to rochester for dinner they are to wate until we come up then we are to all go to gather which was done we started from rochester abot 12 Oclock all to gather all hands wanted to go next to the Brig one of gentleMen from South Bend did not act the gentle Man he rushed up and would not let the Laporte folks nor city folks go nex to the Brig some of the chaps from Laporte Co rushed up to try if they could not get in next to the Brig but the south Bend gentle Man Bauled out that they were not agoing to Be run ove our company gave Back and let them go on we got along quite well this afternoon evry house we cane to the company would find out which side of Jug(?) they was on if whigs they gave them 3 cheers but if Democrats they hallowed like crowes and Brayed like mules or some other scornful nois we got to 9 miles hous this side of Logansporte here we camped it rained consid-erabl we all camped in the rode the roads are quite Bad this afternoon rough it is the meenest we will have after supper Mr Judge Sample made a speech for the purpose of regulating the way we should go in to Logansport which was done by the

⁵ Michigan City had prepared a "brig," a vessel on wheels, as its contribution for the gathering at Tippecanoe. This float was important enough to receive mention in several accounts of the gathering.

consent of the people we then went to bed some sang comic songs while others crowed and Barked we all rested quite well I slept tolerable sound some 2 or 3 complained of sleeping to sound the camp is full to night 18 I think Mr Blackburn and Mr Andrews got supper and No one washed up the dishes

27 cloudy looked like rane but did not much we arose at 4 Oclock Mr Balckburn and Father got Breakfast by 5 0 no one washed the dishes Orland Frederick and myself rolled up the beds and geared up the horses ready for a start all hans was ready for a start at 7 0 the marshal called us according to our Lots we wer No 7 the other team was N 22 the Brig in front all the musitioner on it in this way we all went to Logansport the roads ar quit bad we had to turn out a number of times the marshal was on a horse and they way he ordered us was a caution I never saw a man act so foolish as he did he run his horse from one end of the procession to the other as hard as he posably could go there was no more need of it than nothing considerable many walk this forenoon for the roads was so bad 23 teams in the company the way we cutt up the roads was right rong all was swel to day we got with in 2 miles of Logansport when we wer met by a full band of Musick from town and 20 or more a horse to escort us in to town the musitioners got on the brig 10 or more musitioner there was 19 on the brig most to heavy a load for 4 horses they played Musick all the way in town some of the Ladies waved there hankerchief out of the window we all waved our hats in silence one lady held the likeness of Martain Van Buren out of a window but No one countenanced it she was put to her best to hold it until all got by some of the gentle Men tryed to get her to take it in but No we marched in front of the printing office and the Mane tavern there holted and according to the marshals orders we gave them 3 cheers then marched around one squar and came up a little a past where we stoped be fore and stoped and done as we did be fore then marched acrost Eal River on the bridge and stoped for dinner rather early only half after ten we took dinner only 10 eat dinner I went over to town I saw a flag in town quite comical on one side was Martain riding in a fine carriag down to the deposit there he had two men halling out the money and putting it in a cart General Harison was standing of lookin on on the other side

was harrison ploughing some of his hands making cider while others was picking up the apples we all started down the river every wagon went as he wanted to we went 16 miles to a place called rattle snakes run this afternoon fall the Man that drove the Brig got mat at Stewart and wanted to fight because some of the youngsters on the Brig Brayed at Irish demicrats but it was all settled in the evening one of the teems upset this afternoon in a mud hole and throwed the Marshal clear under and also Junigan Junigan he took his clothes of and Borrowed a suit of some old Man he looked some green Boy F Reynolds and H Justice caught up with us 10 Miles on the other side of Logansport they stayed sith us Blackburn and Father got supper us boys tended to the horses 13 lodged with us took supper and Breakfast.

28 warm we arose at 4 0 Breakfast at half after 4 0 James Andrews and I got it Mr Blackburn and Father Rolled up the Beds and the rest tended to feeding and harnessing the horses we washed the dishes and started at 5 0 for the Battle ground 14 Miles every one went as he wished until we come within 2 Miles of the place here we was to all stop and march in togather we stoped at the place fed took a bite we wated until all come up while we wer feeding the Lafiett Deligates came out to escort us in with there Log Cabben Drawen By 8 white horses with on line Drove we met them with our flags in five wagons each wagon a flag gave them 3 cheers then they all came up wher we wer feeding Judge Sample ordered all but the drivers to form in a line which was done. and when the cabben came in front of us we gave her 3 cheers which made all ring the cabben then turned around came in the crowd and stoped 3 speeches was given on the top of the cabben to entertain the people until the Brig came up (but we did not get rigid so soon as they expected) we all drawed for our places in the procession our county drawed No 1 we formed and marched with in $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile of the place and stoped until the Brig came up and when she was in the center we all gave 3 cheers to the Brig then she came in front of our company the cabben was in front of all 60 wagons 40 a horse Back in this way we marched into place we made one balk by not going down in to, the crowd with our company it was a mistake in the marshal it raned quite smart just as we wer going in we all camped in a row on the east side of the battle ground abot

3 or 4 hundred yards from the fense people coming in from every part the roads are full as far as you can see 60 Wagons and 90 horse man came from Warren I never saw the Like of people such shouting as there was Beat me there was people on foot on boath sides of Road $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile in Length thick as they could stand so as to let the people pass they cheered every 6 or 8 wagons people came in all night speeches wer made in 3 or 4 different places sky rockets wer sent up which was a great curiosity to me They roasted an ox hole for the people but it was to long in cooking it spoilt we all cleaned up put on our Best clothes Father Brought James Sutherland up to our tent this evening I hadent seen him for 4 years a gra deal of nois to night all night Mr Blackburn and John Andrews got supper 20 ate and Lodged with us Frederick and Orlando washed up the Dishes Remarkable pleasant all day we wer awakened in the 29 morning by a tremendous firing which commensed about 3 Oclock which continued about 2 hours such another stir I never saw the people kep coming in from every parts in droves some in cabbens others in canoes skiffs one from Illinois came in as a representg hard times in a gig. Withed all over with kickry the spring wer Buckeye very ornery horse poor old harness rope Lines on the horses hed was a Bucks horn the Men wer as Raged as could Be it was quite comical one company from union came in with 40 white horses all dressed in uniform good saddles Bridles and Martingals Wayn Co came in with a splendid Banner not very many from this count. the Ladies from Indianapolis presented the handsomest Banner that I saw I supposed there was 300 Banners all to gather there was company marching all day there was 2 companies Dressed in uniform of the neatest kind which kep quards around there tents all night and day just to show how the soldiers do when going to war there was one canoe 64 feet Long another 40 feet long this was Buckeye it had a log cabben in front on the canoe filled with folks around the wal was shirts womeneses pantaloons coonskins deer-skins and some other clothin and furrs And a barrel of hard cider there is a cabben Built on the ground 60 f square with 4 Rooms and two passways crossing each other in one of the Rooms was Bread Baked for the people free there was a much as two cord of it their was considerable Hard cider free some

strong drink on the ground But not a grate deal I never saw the Like of people as there was today but not one cross word did I hear spoke nor but one man drunk he was not so but what he could walk strate I saw Jack Downing to day Jonathan McCarty made a cpeech and Doz of others sone sung harrison songs about 10 or 11 O all the people was formed in one line and marched them that came in wagons went a foot them that came on Horse Back and in canoes log cabben and other curiosities rode in the procession Flemen Reynolds and I stood to one side to see we stood as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour and they wer going By all the time 4 10 ina brest they did not all get by in that time when we went away they wer still passing coming as far as we could see we boath said it exceeded anything we could think of Flemen and Myself took a hors a piece and went down the wabash River 3 or 4 Miles while we wer on the rode that Led to the ferry we could hardly get along for people Leaving I was diverted to see the canes every man and Boy had a cane and ask him wher he got it say rite wher Davis or Spencer was killed I suppose ther was 2 cord of canes cout from of the ground wher Spencer or Davis was killed their was not 50 canes to found on the ground or not very near wher either of them fell but every Mans cane came rite from the place I got some canes from the rite place I suppose a great many are leaving this evening No principle cook this evening after supper we all cleared out down to the crowd I never saw the Like of the fire works as thier was here on the 29 of May Night it was frightful eligant and wonderful to see James Sutherland and Myself went down to see it it was at the Lower end of grounds they sent up some 5 or 6 sky Rockets they went up 3 or 4 hundred feet there Bursted and went out they had som Bome shell or some thing else so fixed as to wherl around by the forse of powder which made an awful looking sight though splendid they had another fixed like a star when they touched it withe fire it run all over and Baced very nice at last begun to pop until all was out this was the greatest curiosity I seen I suppose ther was 50 Bands of music from Different parts I stayed out until 11 Oclock when I come to camp it was full not Room enough to walk. Father tryed to make Room for me but I could not only get My foot down so I got my coat and crauled in at the head of all and stayed all night on 7 canes a pare of

harness with my hed on a saddle with my coat over me I awoke 2 or 3 times for day But no Day though I went to Bed late it was a long Night 20 took supper 21 Lodged over night

30th very pleasant all day very warm Mr Blackburn and Mr Andrews got Breakfast some of Mr Blackburns friends John Andrews and Frederick washed up the dishes we all went to see what was going on a good many are leaving James Sutherland started for Indianapolis the roads was quite bad when he came out not many from that county I saw James Morrison James Reaves D P Holloway and some others from Richmond we had a meeting in our part of the camps

most of the people have left and the ballence are groing to day the city folk have gone down the river to give there Brig to the Knox county Deligates for guarding them in when they first came their was one solemn transaction took place this fore noon all the companies that had guns was formed around the grave wher most of the persons was buried Judge Polk sayes 49 was killed 40 Buried in this place the cannon was in the center the musitioners was on the South part of company they played one very solemn tune then the General Ordered the Rifle Men to fire which was done this they done 3 times with musick between every fire then the cannon fired 3 times with musick between every fire every thing else was silent several shed tears all seames to know the intention of there meetin then we packed up our things and Rolled up our tent and loaded up ready for a start we are wating for Mr Blackburn he went with the city folk down to the river he got back so we started at 2 Oclock went to Rattle Snakes run 15 miles from the Battleground we crosed tipacanoë at the lower ford it came with in 3 inches of running over the front part of our Wagons we had to putt all of the thing upon the seats it is very warm this afternoon

31 very pleasant all day But extreamly warm all the company was for going on but Mr Blackburn he said that he would rather not travail and on his account we stayed F Reynolds and H Justice went on they are a Horseback we longed around until 10 Oclock there was a meeting about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles we all went exceptin O Piper he stayed to mend the tent Not many at meeting 30 or 40 I suppose) they are Newlites 3 persons spoke

June 2 (Reached home.)